

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
CONOVER
FRASIER
MCDEVITT

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR WESTCOTT

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:

PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION
GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER

ROBERT YORK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON
TAYLOR

TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF QUEENSBURY
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 10:33 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Auer presented a request for authorization of a new contract with VNA Homecare Options LLC, to allow for the provision of various health services and receipt of reimbursement for the services provided, in a form approved by the County Attorney.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization of a new contract with Humana Choice Care, to allow for the provision of various health services and receipt of reimbursement for the services provided, in a form approved by the County Attorney

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization of a new contract with Elder Plan Home First Managed Long Term

Care Program, to allow for the provision of various health services and receipt of reimbursement for the services provided, in a form approved by the County Attorney. Ms. Auer explained more managed care organizations were expressing interest in conducting business in Warren County. She added if their Department did not have contracts with these organizations they could not receive referrals or reimbursements from them.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested to rescind Resolution No. 507 of 2014, which authorized notification to the NYS DOH (New York State Department of Health) that Warren County would not be submitting an application to continue as the sponsoring agency for the WIC Program for the contract period set to begin October 1, 2015. She advised that subsequent to the letter being sent, Dr. James A. Seeley, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, was notified by the Cornell Administration that they did not wish to be involved in the WIC Program.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to rescind Resolution No. 507 of 2014 as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for Cathy Dufour, Lynn Rodriguez and Maureen Linehan to attend the Home Care Association of New York State ICD-10-CM Readiness Boot Camp on February 25, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, Albany, New York utilizing a County vehicle. She explained that later this year they would be transitioning the coding system from ICD-9 to ICD-10; therefore, she said, training on the new system was necessary. She mentioned there was money in her budget to pay for the training.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer apprised there were no pending items to discuss this month. She stated Attachment #1 referred to the Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities Report, which reflected the activity for December of 2014 and January of 2015. Referring to the Warren County Health Services Patient Evaluation Charts, Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of Home Care Division, commented the figures reflected a comparison of evaluations performed by the CHHA (Certified Home Health Agency) Division for 2013 versus 2014. She estimated the total decrease in referrals for the year to be about 7%. She said she was pleased that the decrease had been minimal, as it could have been much more substantial due to competition. She noted their patient outcomes and satisfactions remained relatively high.

Ms. Auer advised that representatives from the NYS DOH spent three days reviewing the Department's plan of correction for the issues they had identified during their last visit. She said they had approved the plan of corrections in place to address these issues. Ms. Auer acknowledged the staff for their work and commended them on a job well done during the review, and Ms. Schaldone concurred. Ms. Schaldone apprised that the representatives from the NYS DOH commented their visits to Warren County were always enjoyable. Ms. Auer added the representatives from the NYS DOH had been able to observe how dedicated and hard working the staff were when they traveled with them to home visits in northern Warren County during inclement

weather.

Mr. McDevitt questioned whether advance notice was provided by NYS DOH as to when these visits would occur and Ms. Schaldone replied in the negative. She explained the NYS DOH conducted a survey every three years for Medicare; however, she said, they did not provide a time frame for when it would take place. She continued, during this survey they identified deficiencies, which their Department addressed with a plan of correction. She stated the NYS DOH returned within one year to determine whether the plan of correction in place was sufficient to address the deficiencies.

Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, advised Attachment # 2 in the agenda packet was a Budget analysis of the Health Services Department as of January 20, 2015. She mentioned the year end figures for 2014 would not be available until the end of February 2015. She stated the year-to-date salaries reflected a decrease of \$9,846.48. She said they only used 98.14% of the salaries that were budgeted for the year. She pointed out the increase in regular salaries of \$2,543.09 from 2013 to 2014 was due to salary increases as outlined in the CSEA contract. She noted the increase in part-time salaries was a result of using per diem staff to assist with nursing coverage, which in turn, reduced overtime expenses.

With regards to the Revenue and Expense Comparison Report, Ms. Driscoll advised the report displayed a consistency from last year to this year. She commented contractual expenses continued to remain below the prior year due to expenses related to the Early Intervention and Preschool Programs, which could not be billed until March of 2015. She added due to the timing of invoices, 2014 expenses were slightly below last year at this time; however, she said, these would be reflected when the year end was closed out. Mr. Conover asked whether these figures reflected the totals for the year and Ms. Driscoll replied in the negative. Mr. Conover questioned whether they anticipated these figures increasing and Ms. Driscoll replied affirmatively. She estimated receiving another \$2 million in revenue and \$1.5 million in expenses within the next few months.

Ms. Auer apprised Attachment # 5 referred to the October through December 2014 Rabies Program activity report. She said they had met with the Town of Queensbury to discuss implementing some changes with reporting and how they communicated with each other. She said if any additional changes were made she would bring them forward at the next Committee meeting.

Prior to commencing the Mental Health portion of the meeting, Mr. Sokol advised Travis Whitehead, resident of the Town of Queensbury, would like to address the Committee with some concerns he had regarding the proposed purchaser of the Westmount Health Facility. Mr. Whitehead passed out a packet of information which, he noted, may be used in a presentation on February 11, 2015 in the Town of Queensbury prior to the Public Hearing regarding the sale of the Facility; *a copy of the packet is on file with the minutes*. He stated the packet addressed the statement that Paul Dusek, County Administrator, had made at the December 19, 2014 Board meeting regarding the \$6.5 million fine that North Manor Operations Associates LLC received. Mr. Whitehead pointed out Mr. Dusek had stated he had been advised by Mr. Abramchik that Specialty Care were only consultants to this facility, and not board members or owners. He requested that the Committee members set aside some time to review the information prior to approving the sale. He commented according to the information he compiled in the packet, North Manor Operations Associates LLC was owned by Specialty Care. He advised although the Rozenberg name was not directly associated with Northern Manor or the proposed entity purchasing the Westmount Health Facility, he felt the information stated on pages 8 and 9 of the handout clearly stated that the same individual, Isidor D. Friedenbergs, Esq., 2 Cara Drive, Suffern, New York 10901, was listed as the entities address registered with the NYSDOS (New York State Department of State) for both facilities. He mentioned

he had filed a complaint with the NYS DOH (New York State Department of Health) regarding Mr. Rozenberg's activities, as he had consistently "changed his story" regarding which properties he owned and regularly ignored the facilities with an abundant amount of issues associated with them. He asked that the Committee take into consideration that the proposed buyers of the Westmount Health Facility had not been honest regarding their ownership of the North Manor Operations Associates LLC.

Mr. McDevitt advised he did not feel the issue was whether the facility should be sold, but rather if the proposed buyer would provide the quality of care that was necessary for the residents of the Facility. He commented he did not feel they would provide the quality of care required. He reminded the Committee Mr. Beaty had participated in a telephone conference with Mr. Dusek and Mr. Abramchik, representing Specialty Care. He continued, during this telephone conference, Mr. Abramchik had stated Specialty Care was only a consultant to North Manor Operations Associates LLC and not board members or direct owners of the facility. He pointed out Counsel for the County was asked if Mr. Abramchik had been less than candid in the statements he made during the telephone conference would this give the County distinct cause and legitimacy to void the contract. He apprised he felt the County was mistaken when they selected Specialty Care over Fort Hudson Health System, as he believed Fort Hudson had a stellar reputation in the community and was clearly the better selection.

Mr. Sokol thanked Mr. Whitehead for bringing the matter to the Committee's attention and advised the matter would be researched further.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert York, Director, Office of Community of Community Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. York introduced himself and provided a PowerPoint Presentation of an overview of the Office of Community Services and the Community Services Board which he had updated with some new information for 2015; *a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. York informed the shared administrative office for the Office of Community Services for Warren and Washington Counties was located at 230 Maple Street in the City of Glens Falls and the space was leased from the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health (WWAMH). He advised the Office had 5 employees, including himself; Cynthia Wasson, Office Specialist; Megan Johnson, LCSW, Deputy Director, Clinical; Harry Carlson, MPA, Deputy Director, Fiscal; and Lisa Coutu, LCSW, Program Analyst.

Mr. York mentioned the Office of Community Services was regulated by and received funding from the following State agencies: the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH); the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (NYS OASAS); and the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (NYS OPWDD). He explained the Office of Community Services was organized by the New York State Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) Article 41 which dictated the following requirements of them:

- ▶ directs local governments to either provide or arrange for preventative, rehabilitation and treatment services for the mentally ill, the developmentally disabled and those suffering from the disease of alcoholism and substance abuse;
- ▶ requires the establishment by the County of a Local Governmental Unit (LGU) given authority in accordance with Article 41 to provide or arrange for local services;

- requires each LGU to have a Community Services Board of 9 to 15 members for Counties with a population of less than 100,000;
- requires the direction and administration by the LGU of an annual local comprehensive planning process and the Local Services Plan for Warren and Washington Counties was posted on the County websites; and
- requires each Community Services Board to have separate sub-committees for mental health; alcohol and substance abuse; and developmental disabilities.

Mr. York advised some Counties were direct providers of the services but Warren and Washington Counties arranged for the services through contracts with local not-for-profit agencies. He pointed out the Office of Community Services was the LGU given the authority to provide or arrange for local services by both Warren and Washington Counties. He added there was an Intermunicipal Agreement between Warren and Washington Counties for the sharing of one administrative office, the Office of Community Services. He advised the Office of Community Services employees were employed by Warren County but the costs for administration of the Office, including salaries, were divided equally between the two Counties through an annual chargeback to Washington County. He noted Warren and Washington Counties were unique within New York State because they were the only Counties which had a formal Intermunicipal Agreement for these shared services. He informed Warren and Washington Counties had Separate Community Services Boards consisting of 9 members each. Mr. York noted the Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards met jointly on a monthly basis, with the exception of the month of August. He pointed out both Warren and Washington Counties were Non-Chartered Counties for which the Community Services Boards were policy making boards. He mentioned in Chartered Counties the Community Services Board was an advisory board to the Director of Community Services. He commented each Community Services Board Member served a four year term and the Community Services Board Officers were appointed for two year terms. Mr. York explained that although the Warren and Washington Counties Community Services Boards met jointly and their business mirrored each others, each board acted separately on individual issues. Mr. York stated MHL Article 41 required that members of the Community Services Board have backgrounds and/or interests in one of three disciplines: mental health; alcoholism and substance abuse; or developmental disabilities.

Mr. York stated the Local Services Plan was required annually by the three State agencies: NYS OMH; NYS OASAS; and NYS OPWDD. He noted the Local Services Plan was developed through the three sub-committees. He said the Mental Health, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and Developmental Disabilities Sub-Committees provided venues for service/system planning; implementation and coordination of local services; provider collaboration; information sharing; and multi-stakeholder problem solving. He said the sub-committees were comprised of Community Services Board Members, LGU staff, service providers, service recipients and family members. He noted the sub-committees met at least quarterly throughout the year and County Supervisors were welcome to attend any of those meetings. Mr. York reviewed the list of Warren County's contract agencies through the Office of Community Services noting the total for all 2015 contracts was \$2,651,062. Of that total, he continued, the amount funded by Warren County was \$45,678 with the remainder covered by State Aid. He pointed out some of the agencies were contracted for a single service while others provided an array of services. He noted each of the agencies had an individual website and the addresses were listed in the PowerPoint Presentation.

Mr. York reviewed the list of additional responsibilities of the LGU, as follows:

- fiscal management and reporting related to the management of State Aid contracts;
- Single Point of Access (SPOA) Process - a referral process for certain high end services, such as care coordination and residential services which had limited resources;

- ▶ Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program - also referred to as Kendra's Law, allowed for outpatient commitments so certain individuals related to non-compliance of treatment and dangerousness who could be court ordered to complete outpatient treatment;
- ▶ Certificates of Need/Expansion of Service Approvals - work completed in conjunction with the State when agencies were interested in developing new services;
- ▶ overall system coordination;
- ▶ emergency removals (MHL 9.45 "pick-up orders") - gave authority to the Director of Community Services to remove people from the community when they were an imminent danger to themselves or others;
- ▶ Coordinated County Disaster Mental Health Team with the Office of Emergency Services - had trained approximately 26 Master's level clinicians from various agencies on disaster mental health;
- ▶ SAFE (Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement) Act reporting - when an individual was deemed likely to engage in dangerous behavior, physicians and clinicians were required to report it through the SAFE Act portal and the Director of Community Services would either approve or disapprove the report before forwarding it to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; and
- ▶ active involvement with various regional healthcare planning structures and initiatives to lower costs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health and behavioral health care systems and improve outcomes for the residents of both Counties.

Mr. York stated he included his offices contact information and the website address on the last page of the presentation. He encouraged anyone to contact him with questions and/or concerns they may have.

Continuing, Mr. York requested the appointment of Holly Irion-Sweet to the Warren County Community Services Board for a term commencing February 20, 2015 and terminating December 31, 2015 to fill the unexpired term of Barbara Green, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to appoint Holly Irion-Sweet to the Warren County Community Services Board as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. York requested the appointments of Joan Grishkot and Barbara Boggia to the Warren County Community Services Board for a term commencing January 1, 2015 and terminating December 31, 2018.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to appoint Joan Grishkot and Barbara Boggia to the Warren County Community Services Board as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. York requested to amend the 2015 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$100,000 to reflect the receipt of funding from NYS OMH to expand the HBCI (Home-Based Crisis Intervention) Program with Parsons Child and Family Center. He explained the HBCI was an intensive in-home program where clinicians could respond and be involved on a short-term basis in the home to de-escalate crisis and avoid individuals going to the emergency room seeking hospitalization. He said this program was unique because it was a Tri-County Program that included Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties. He stated since Warren

County was serving as the fiscal agent for the program it was necessary to request authorization to accept the funding.

JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, questioned whether it was necessary to amend the contract with Parsons Child and Family Center, as well and Mr. York replied he was unsure. Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, advised the resolution allowed for additional State aid funding to be received throughout the year without further amendments to the resolution.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2015 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend the County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. York requested authorization to enter into an Intermunicipal agreement with Saratoga and Washington Counties for the operation of a tri-county children and youth mobile mental health crisis team. He explained this was a new program that was similar to the HCBI Program with the only difference being that this program required the home based crisis intervention team to stay involved with the child and family for a three to four week period rather than providing same day de-escalation service. He mentioned he would bring forward a request for the contract once the RFP (Request for Proposal) was completed and they had selected an agency to perform these services.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the agreement as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. York requested authorization to enter into an Intermunicipal agreement with Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady and Washington Counties for the operation of a regional adult mobile mental health crisis team. He explained the only difference with this program and the tri-county children and youth mobile health crisis team was that the services were for adults rather than children. He added Rensselaer County was acting as the fiscal agent for the program.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the agreement as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20, 2015 Board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Conover, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board